

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Humans are social creatures who cannot live without other humans. As social beings, humans need a means which is called as language to socialize or interact with other humans. Language has an important role for human life because it is the main means for communication. Language itself has two forms. They can be verbal language or non-verbal language. Language as verbal can be in speech or written forms while language as non-verbal can use paralanguage as the way to communicate each other for example the use of body motions, touch signals, eye movements, gestures, facial expressions, tone of voice and so on. Language is not only used in daily life but it is also required to do all human's daily activities. According to Wardhaugh (2006) language is an essential human attribute and individuals have access to it and constantly show that they do so by using it properly. Social, cultural and geographic backgrounds cause language to have various types. The manifestation of this diversity can be seen in the number of languages that still used in the world. Ethnologue (in Lewis, Simons and Fennig, 2016) stated there are 7,097 languages which is used in the world.

ethnologue also stated Indonesia has 707 active regional languages from 719 existing regional languages.

One of the regional languages in Indonesia with the largest users is Javanese. Ethnologue noted that in 2016, Javanese speakers reached 84,308,740 people. Javanese is included in the large family of Austronesian languages, under the Western Malayo-Polynesian family branch which is a member of the Malayo-Polynesian subgroup (Blust, 2013).

One of the areas which is mostly used Javanese language in Java is Gresik city. Gresik is one of the unique cities in East Java which is adjacent to Surabaya city. The Javanese language in Gresik itself has many differences based on regions and geographical conditions (Muzaki, 2018). The Javanese language in North Gresik has a difference with the Javanese language in West Gresik, East, and the South Gresik region. From each of these regions, the use of the Javanese language cannot be separated from the politeness levels of the language such as how they use Javanese language to respect each others.

Javanese society uses speech which cannot be separated from *unggah-ungguh* which has a tendency to give respect based on the position, degree and rank possessed by an element of society. *Unggah-ungguh* or speech level in Javanese language is a level in the speech of words found in Javanese. *Unggah-ungguh* in Javanese language which can be clearly distinguished based on the principle, there are only two types, first is *unggah-ungguh* in the form of *ngoko* and second is in the form of *krama* (Sasangka, 2010:92). People with lower social levels use a higher form of Javanese language which is called as *krama*. For

example, the use of word “*panjenengan*” or “you” is used by young people to older people to show respect. Meanwhile, people with a higher social level use a lower form of Javanese language which is called as *ngoko*. For example, the use of word “*esun*” or “I” is used by older people to young people. These types of *unggah-ungguh* in Javanese can be used as a medium to show intimacy, respect, and levels (hierarchy) among speakers.

The use of *unggah-ungguh* is kind of politeness which is commonly found in Javanese society. According to Zamzani, et al. (2010: 2), politeness is behavior that is expressed in a good or ethical way. Politeness is a cultural phenomenon, so what is considered polite by one culture may not be the case with another culture. The purpose of politeness, including language politeness, is to respect the other person and make the atmosphere pleasant to interact.

Language politeness is reflected in the way of communicating through verbal signs or language procedures. Language procedure is intended to use language politely. The point is that in language politeness there is a rule of behavior that is established or mutually agreed upon by a certain society so that politeness becomes a requirement by a community in communicating. When communicating, person obeys to cultural norms, not just conveying the ideas that he thinks. Language procedures must be in accordance with the cultural elements that exist in the community where they live and a language is used in communication.

One aspect of politenesses is the use of honorifics. This aspect is a politeness formula in a specific language that can specifically be in the form of

affixes, words, or sentence structures (Richards and Schmidt, 2010). Brown (2011) defines honorifics as a resource to index the relative positions of talk partners, referents, and people around. So, honorific can be defined as a lingual form used to express respect which in a certain language is used to honor another person.

Javanese society has an assessment of politeness which is related to *unggah-ungguh* that affects the type of language (honorific) used. The kind of honorific can be seen based on their own characteristics. The purpose of honorific itself is to show respect to others and to show a form of politeness.

In Gresik, East Java, there are various types of honorific system used. They honor others by using their titles,—or their position as a form of honorific. One of the titles often used by the Gresik society is religious titles such as *pak yai*, *bu nyai*, *pak haji* and *bu haji*. Another title that is often used is the title of a religious leader who has been buried. The society gave honor to them by the name such as *Mbah Gondang*, *Mbah Kyai Gede*, and so on.

In the research, the writer chooses to observe about honorific system because many people do not understand about what is honorific language about. It is important to conduct a study of honorific system in Gresik Regency, East Java, by classifying of honorific types, levels and the factors influencing the use of honorific language, especially Javanese society in Gresik, to determine the honorific status which is used by them. Then, a study of Javanese honorific system used in Gresik Regency is worth to conduct.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on background of the study above, the research questions are stated as follows:

1. What are types of Javanese honorific system used in Gresik?
2. What are levels of Javanese honorific system used in Gresik?
3. What are factors influencing the use of Javanese honorific system used in Gresik?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, there are two objectives which will be accomplished. The objectives can be formulated as follows:

1. To find out the types of Javanese honorific system used in Gresik.
2. To find out the levels of Javanese honorific system used in Gresik.
3. To explain the factors which influence the use of Javanese honorific system in Gresik.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to give both theoretical and practical advantages, as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

The study is expected to be able to identify types, levels and factors influencing of Javanese honorific system in Gresik. It is also expected that in

general the study can contribute to development of knowledge towards the linguistics, and in sociolinguistic studies in particular.

2. Practical Significance

The writer expects that the study can enrich and develop knowledge about Javanese honorific system in Gresik. In addition, the research is also expected to be useful for the development and the growth about Javanese honorific system in Gresik. It is also expected to the next researchers can use this research as the reference if they want to conduct the research about honorific system.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the study has scope and limitation. The scope of the study is sociolinguistic study which focuses on honorific system. The writer uses the theory proposed by Brown (2011) to classify the types and the influencing factors of honorific system and the theory proposed by Supardo (1999) to classify the levels of honorifics system. The limitation of the study is the honorifics system uttered by Javanese society in Gresik. The writer focuses to find out the types, the levels and classify the influencing factors of Javanese honorific system from utterances which are uttered by Gresik society.